Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-29. (canceled)

30. (newly entered) A method comprising:

monitoring at least one performance characteristic of a server that processes secure sockets layer (SSL) communications from clients, the monitored performance characteristic selected from the group consisting of CPU utilization and memory utilization;

dynamically calculating available capacity of the server to process SSL connections, based at least in part on the monitored performance characteristic of the server; and

based at least in part on the dynamically calculated available capacity of the server, automatically adjusting a configuration parameter of an SSL proxy device in communication with the server to modify how many SSL connections are to be processed by the SSL proxy device on behalf of the server.

31. (newly entered) A method according to claim 30, wherein:

the configuration parameter specifies a maximum number of SSL connection to be processed by the proxy device on behalf of the server.

32. (newly entered) A method according to claim 30, comprising:

automatically determining how many SSL connections the server can handle without being overloaded.

33. (newly entered) A method according to claim 30, comprising:

automatically determining how many SSL connections the server can handle without being overloaded; and

automatically modifying the number of SSL connections to be processed by the SSL proxy device on behalf of the server, based at least in part on the determination of how many SSL connections the server can handle without being overloaded.

34. (newly entered) A method according to claim 30, wherein SSL proxy device performs operations comprising:

decrypting a request received from a client via an SSL connection; and

forwarding the decrypted request to the server.

35. (newly entered) A method according to claim 30, further comprising:

automatically monitoring workload of the SSL proxy device; and

automatically modifying the maximum number of SSL connections to be processed by the SSL proxy device, based at least in part on:

the dynamically calculated available capacity of the server to process SSL connections; and

the workload of the SSL proxy device.

36. (newly entered) A method according to claim 30, wherein the operation of dynamically calculating available capacity of the server to process SSL connections comprises:

computing the available capacity of the server using a formula substantially in the form of:

max [(# processors x processor speed/100) x (0.7-CPU utilization), 0].

37. (newly entered) A method according to claim 30, wherein one or more of the operations are to be performed by the server.

38. (newly entered) A method according to claim 30, wherein one or more of the operations are to be performed by the SSL proxy device.

39. (newly entered) A machine-accessible medium having instructions which, when executed by a processing system, result in the performance of operations comprising:

monitoring at least one performance characteristic of a server that processes secure sockets layer (SSL) communications from clients, the monitored performance characteristic selected from the group consisting of CPU utilization and memory utilization;

dynamically calculating available capacity of the server to process SSL connections, based at least in part on the monitored performance characteristic of the server; and

based at least in part on the dynamically calculated available capacity of the server, automatically adjusting a configuration parameter of an SSL proxy device in communication with the server to modify how many SSL connections are to be processed by the SSL proxy device on behalf of the server.

40. (newly entered) A machine-accessible medium according to claim 38, wherein:

the configuration parameter specifies a maximum number of SSL connection to be processed by the proxy device on behalf of the server.

41. (newly entered) A machine-accessible medium according to claim 38, wherein the operations comprise:

automatically determining how many SSL connections the server can handle without being overloaded.

42. (newly entered) A machine-accessible medium according to claim 38, wherein the operations comprise:

automatically determining how many SSL connections the server can handle without being overloaded; and

automatically modifying the number of SSL connections to be processed by the SSL proxy device on behalf of the server, based at least in part on the determination of how many SSL connections the server can handle without being overloaded.

43. (newly entered) A machine-accessible medium according to claim 38, wherein the operations comprise:

automatically monitoring workload of the SSL proxy device; and

automatically modifying the maximum number of SSL connections to be processed by the SSL proxy device, based at least in part on:

the dynamically calculated available capacity of the server to process SSL connections; and

the workload of the SSL proxy device.

44. (newly entered) A machine-accessible medium according to claim 38, wherein the operation of dynamically calculating available capacity of the server to process SSL connections comprises:

computing the available capacity of the server using a formula substantially in the form of:

max [(# processors x processor speed/100) x (0.7-CPU utilization), 0].

45. (newly entered) A machine-accessible medium according to claim 38, wherein one or more of the instructions are to be executed on the server.

46. (newly entered) A machine-accessible medium according to claim 38, wherein one or more of the instructions are to be executed on the SSL proxy device.

47. (newly entered) A system comprising:

a processor;

a machine-accessible medium responsive to the processor; and

instructions in the machine-accessible medium, wherein the instructions, when executed, result in the performance of operations comprising:

monitoring at least one performance characteristic of a server that processes secure sockets layer (SSL) communications from clients, the monitored performance characteristic selected from the group consisting of CPU utilization and memory utilization;

dynamically calculating available capacity of the server to process SSL connections, based at least in part on the monitored performance characteristic of the server; and

based at least in part on the dynamically calculated available capacity of the server, automatically adjusting a configuration parameter of an SSL proxy device in communication with the server to modify how many SSL connections are to be processed by the SSL proxy device on behalf of the server.

48. (newly entered) A system according to claim 46, wherein the configuration parameter specifies a maximum number of SSL connection to be processed by the proxy device on behalf of the server.

49. (newly entered) A system according to claim 46, wherein the operations comprise:

automatically determining how many SSL connections the server can handle without being overloaded.

50. (newly entered) A system according to claim 46, wherein the operations comprise:

automatically determining how many SSL connections the server can handle without being overloaded; and

automatically modifying the number of SSL connections to be processed by the SSL proxy device on behalf of the server, based at least in part on the determination of how many SSL connections the server can handle without being overloaded.

51. (newly entered) A system according to claim 46, wherein SSL proxy device performs operations comprising:

decrypting a request received from a client via an SSL connection; and

forwarding the decrypted request to the server.

52. (newly entered) A system according to claim 46, wherein the operations comprise:

automatically monitoring workload of the SSL proxy device; and

automatically modifying the maximum number of SSL connections to be processed by the SSL proxy device, based at least in part on:

the dynamically calculated available capacity of the server to process SSL connections; and

the workload of the SSL proxy device.

53. (newly entered) A system according to claim 46, wherein the operation of dynamically calculating available capacity of the server to process SSL connections comprises:

computing the available capacity of the server using a formula substantially in the form of:

max [(# processors x processor speed/100) x (0.7-CPU utilization), 0].

54. (newly entered) A system according to claim 46, wherein:
the system comprises the server; and
the instructions execute at least partially on the server.

55. (newly entered) A system according to claim 46, wherein:
the system comprises the SSL proxy device; and
the instructions execute at least partially on the SSL proxy device.